

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1 and 2 are pending and stand rejected. Figure 1 is objected to because it should be designated by the legend "Prior Art."

Applicant thanks the examiner for his observation and submits herewith an annotated, in red, a drawing of Figure 1 labeled as Prior Art. The replacement sheet is properly marked as a Replacement Sheet.

Having submitted a replacement sheet containing Figure 1, applicant submits that the reason for the objection has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The specification has been objected to for lacking section headings. Applicant respectfully submits that 37 CFR §1.77(b) discloses a *suggested* format for the arrangement of the disclosure. Applicant respectfully submits that the present disclosure follows the suggested format where applicable. With regard to 37 CFR §1.77(c), which was not cited in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that section headings are suggested but not required, as 37 CFR §1.77(c) clearly states the sections defined in paragraphs (b) (1) through (b) (11) "should" be preceded by a section heading. Applicant respectfully declines to amend the disclosure to include the suggested headings at this time.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the reason for rejecting the claims. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter, Figure 2 has been amended to more clearly illustrate the principles of the invention. More specifically, Figure 2 has been amended to show that the received data block is pre-filled with a known value (i.e., a zero value) and that the transmitted data occupies the same locations in the received block as in the transmitted block. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment may be found in the written description which states that the receiving block is pre-filled with zero values.

Applicant submits that the reason for the rejection made in the Office Action are incorrect with regard to the reference to a square with a quantified coefficient value of zero and “why the scanning does not stop at the first (black square) quantified coefficient value of zero.”

In this case, applicant believes that the zero value has been inferred to be the known value representing an end marker or reference value. However, the zero values illustrated in the transmission block are valid values to be transmitted. The last value to be transmitted is the last illustrated non-zero value and the non-transmitted data is shown in the cross-hatched (i.e., black) area of the illustrated block.

Although the example of the operation discussed in the written description describes the receiver pre-filling the receive buffer with zero values -- implying a zero value is the reference value -- the description does not require that the occurrence of a zero value indicate the end of the transmission sequence. Rather the description, and the claims, state that “the transmitter circuit is arranged for transmitting only a start of the series of samples which extends to the point where the samples that remain are equal to a reference value and for transmitting an indication "end of transmission" after the last transmitted sample.” The determination of “the point where the samples that remain are equal to a reference value” may be performed in a number of different ways. For example, one skilled in the art may be able to determine “the point where the samples that remain are equal to a reference value” by searching the data block from its beginning to find the last non-reference value. Similarly, a search may be performed from the end of the block to find the first non-reference value. Such searches to find a point where the remaining samples are equal to a known (reference) value are well-known in the art and need not be described in detail in the written description.

Applicant would further note that although a zero value has been used and referred as to the reference value, this use and reference is only for purposes of describing the invention and is not intended to limit the reference value to a zero value. Rather, the reference value may be any value that indicates the remaining data does not contribute to the information already available.

With regard to the invention being practiced in the transmitter and/or receiver, applicant believes that the claims and the written description provide sufficient

information to teach that the transmitter transmits information up to a reference value and the receiver infers the data after the “end of transmission” indicator. Accordingly, applicant believes that the written description provides sufficient information to show that the transmitter transmits information up to a reference values and the receiver infers the information that is not transmitted.

Having amended Figure 2, and for the remarks herein, applicant submits that the reason for the rejection has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatenable over Brude (USP no. 5,283,646) in view of Morrissey (USP no. 5,553,302).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with and explicitly traverses the reason for rejecting the claims.

Bruder discloses a method and apparatus for enabling a real time video encoding system to deliver a desired number of bits per frame and further updating the quantization step size use to quantize coefficients which describe an image to be transmitted over a communication channel. Bruder further discloses that at the end of the transmission of each sector of data, a comparison is performed regarding the accumulated actual number of bits expended with the accumulated desired number of bit expended and readjusting the quantization step size to target a final desired number of data bits.

However, Bruder fails to teach or suggest that “a transmitter circuit transmits only a start of the series of samples which extends to the point where the samples that remain are equal to a reference value,” as is recited in the claims. Rather, Bruder teaches adjusting a quantizer step size to achieve a desired number of transmitted data bits.

Morrissey teaches a system for transferring frames containing frame control data from a serial data transfer medium to a parallel storage medium. A frame recognition mechanism receives and identifies a start-of-frame delimiter or an end-of-frame delimiter from the data transfer medium. However, Morrissey fails to teach or suggest transmitting only a start of the series of samples which extends to the point where the samples that remain are equal to a reference value or places reference values after the sample preceding the indication "end of transmission," so as to reconstitute the series of samples.

A claimed invention is prima facie obvious when three basic criteria are met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the teachings therein. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. And, third, the prior art reference or combined references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Neither Brude nor Morrissey, individually or in combination, teach or suggest all the elements recited in the above referred-to claims. Even if the teachings of Brude and Morrissey, were combined, the combined device would not include all the features recited in the independent claim 1.

Having shown that there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the reference cited, applicant submits that the reason for the rejections of claim 1 has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1.


With regard to claim 2, this claim recites subject matter similar to that recited in claim 1 and was rejected citing the same references used in rejecting claim 1. Thus, applicant's remarks made in response to the rejection of claim 1 are also applicable in response to the rejection of claim 2. Applicant submits that in view of the remarks made with regard to the rejection of claim 1, which are reasserted, as if in full, in response to the rejection of claim 2, the reason for the rejection of claim 2 has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Gross
Registration No. 40,007

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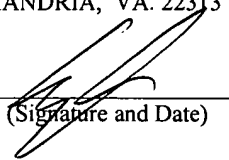

By: Steve Cha
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,069

Mail all correspondence to:
Russell Gross, Registration No. 40,007
US PHILIPS CORPORATION
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
Phone: (914) 333-9608
Fax: (914) 332-0615

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Steve Cha, Reg. No. 44,069
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